

S/N New filing

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant: | WOOLFORD (corrected) | Examiner: | W. NEUDER |
| Serial No.: | New filing | Group Art Unit: | 3672 |
| Filed: | herewith | Docket No.: | 3616.111USC2 |
| Title: | COMPOSITE MASONRY BLOCK | | |

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EL488195923US

Date of Deposit: August 2, 2000

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By: Bill Hensen

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

After establishing the above-identified patent application and assigning the application serial number, and prior to calculating the filing fee, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 28-63 as follows:

28. A block for constructing a wall, the block having a front surface, a back surface, a top surface and bottom surface, first and second sides, a first locator wall proximate said first side wherein said first locator wall extends from said block top surface to said block bottom

surface, and a second locator wall proximate said second side wherein said second locator wall extends from said block top surface to said block bottom surface, said block comprising a protrusion configured on said top or bottom surface to mate with a locator wall of one or more blocks in an adjacent course, said protrusion and said locator walls having relative sizes and shapes adapted to permit relative rotation of said blocks to enable some play between the protrusion and the locator wall with which it is mated whereby serpentine walls may be constructed from a plurality of courses of such blocks.

29. The block of claim 28, wherein said first locator wall comprises a first inset and said second locator wall comprises a second inset.

30. The block of claim 29, wherein said first and second insets are positioned at approximately the midpoint of said first and second sides respectively.

31. The block of claim 28, additionally comprising first and second anchoring legs, said first leg extending from said block first side and said second leg extending from said block second side.

32. The block of claim 31, wherein said first and second legs comprise front surfaces, said leg front surfaces being configured to extend towards said block front surface as said first and second legs extend away from said block.

33. The block of claim 28, wherein said block front surface is substantially planar.

34. The block of claim 28, wherein said block front surface is faceted.

35. The block of claim 28, wherein said block front surface is outwardly curving.

36. The block of claim 28, wherein said protrusion comprises first and second oblong sections between which is positioned a joining section, said joining section having a narrower width than either of said first and second oblong sections.

37. The block of claim 28, wherein said protrusion comprises a first side surface and a second side surface, wherein said locator walls each comprise a side surface, said first side surface of the protrusion being angled to engage the side surface of the locator wall of one or more blocks positioned adjacent said block, and said second side surface being angled to facilitate manufacture of said block.

38. The block of claim 37, wherein said protrusion first side surface is rear facing, said second side surface is forward facing, and said locator wall side surfaces are forward facing.

39. The block of claim 38, wherein said protrusion second side surface has an angle which ranges from about 10° to 25° from vertical.

40. The block of claim 38, wherein said protrusion first side surface has an angle of about 5° from vertical and said protrusion second side surface has an angle of about 20° from vertical.

41. The block of claim 28, wherein said protrusion and said locator walls are configured to provide a setback in a retaining wall structure comprising upper and lower courses of blocks.

42. The block of claim 28, wherein said first and second sides extend from said front surface to said back surface, and said sides converge together toward said back surface.

43. The block of claim 28, wherein said protrusion comprises a curved side surface for mating with said locator wall of said one or more blocks in an adjacent course.

44. The block of claim 28, wherein said block comprises a single protrusion.

45. The block of claim 28, wherein said block comprises two protrusions.

46. The block of claim 28, wherein said protrusion is on said block top surface.

47. The block of claim 28, wherein said first and second locator walls are separate from one another instead of being part of a continuous surface.

48. A block for constructing a wall, the block having a front surface, a back surface, a top surface and bottom surface, first and second sides, a first inset proximate said first side wherein said first inset extends from said block top surface to said block bottom surface, and a second inset proximate said second side wherein said second inset extends from said block top surface to said block bottom surface, said block comprising a protrusion configured on said top or bottom surface to engage an inset of one or more blocks in an adjacent course, said protrusion and said insets having relative sizes and shapes adapted to permit relative rotation of said blocks to enable some play between the protrusion and the inset with which it is engaged whereby serpentine walls may be constructed from a plurality of courses of such blocks.

49. The block of claim 48, wherein said first and second insets are positioned at approximately the midpoint of said first and second sides, respectively.

50. The block of claim 48, wherein said first and second insets are positioned proximate said front surface.

51. The block of claim 48, additionally comprising first and second anchoring legs, said first leg extending from said block first side and said second leg extending from said block second side.

52. The block of claim 51, wherein said first and second legs comprise front surfaces, said leg front surfaces being configured to extend towards said block front surface as said first and second legs extend away from said block.

53. The block of claim 48, wherein said block front surface is substantially planar.

54. The block of claim 48, wherein said block front surface is faceted.

55. The block of claim 48, wherein said block front surface is outwardly curving.

56. The block of claim 48, wherein said protrusion comprises first and second oblong sections between which is positioned a joining section, said joining section having a narrower width than either of said first and second oblong sections.

57. The block of claim 48, wherein said protrusion comprises a first side surface and a second side surface, wherein said insets each comprise a side surface, said first side surface of the protrusion being angled to engage the side surface of the inset of one or more blocks positioned adjacent said block, and said second side surface being angled to facilitate manufacture of said block.

58. The block of claim 57, wherein said protrusion first side surface is rear facing, said second side surface is forward facing, and said inset side surfaces are forward facing.

59. The block of claim 58, wherein said protrusion second side surface has an angle which ranges from about 10° to 25° from vertical.

60. The block of claim 58, wherein said protrusion first side surface has an angle of about 5° from vertical and said protrusion second side surface has an angle of about 20° from vertical.

61. The block of claim 48, wherein said protrusion and said insets are configured to provide a setback in a retaining wall structure comprising upper and lower courses of blocks.

62. The block of claim 48, wherein said protrusion is positioned generally between said first and second insets.

63. The block of claim 48, wherein said block has an open generally central portion extending from said top surface to said bottom surface.

REMARKS

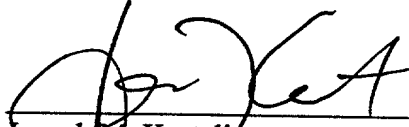
No new matter is introduced in the amendment. Original claims 1-27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 28-63 are added and are pending in this application. Consideration and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested

Respectfully submitted,

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8/2/00



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